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To: Assistant Commissioner of Patents From: Brian K. Johnson

Fax: 571-273-8300 Date: December 21, 2005

Phone: Pages: 7

Re: 09/496,549 - 1996P07613US05 CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Notes: Attached please find the following documents:

> Response to Official Action (6 pp);

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/496,549	02/02/2000	George King	1996P07613US05
via FAX to 571-272-8300 Mail Stop (none) Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		EXAMINER Qureshi, Afsar M.	
		ART UNIT	PAGE NUMBER
		2667	1

Response To OFFICIAL ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

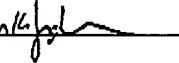
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transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office; to 571-272-8300 this 21st day of December 2005.

Brian K. Johnson
Reg. No. 46,808
Signature 

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A telephone interview was held on December 20, 2005 with examiner Afsar Qureshi (Joel Miller, reg. no. 29,955, on behalf of the applicant) to discuss the sole rejection based upon the McHale and Farris references under sec. 103. As mentioned, the applicant's earliest effective filing date of December 30, 1996 precedes the effective date, January 7, 1997, of the Farris reference. Therefore, the rejection of the claims cannot stand. The examiner indicated that a further search would be required. Although no specific agreement was reached, the applicant thanks the examiner for the opportunity to discuss the application. In view of the discussion and in response to the office action, the following are provided:

Responsive to the OFFICIAL Action mailed October 5, 2005, Applicant(s) submit the following amendments and/or responsive remarks.

Applicant hereby authorizes the PTO to charge any and all necessary fees due, or provide reimbursements of excessive fees paid, to deposit account No. 19-2179.